

Nov. 25, 2013



Island Insight



This publication is published weekly and contains information about, for, and of interest to the Island Workforce. This document is also available on the Island Intranet under "Information" and on the installation website at www.ria.army.mil under "About USAG-RIA" and then "News" and "Local News."

Island Insight Submission: <https://home.ria.army.mil/sites/ii/ii.cfm>

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Thanksgiving Holiday Safety

Message: Thanksgiving is the time of year when we reflect on our many blessings. Although life has many challenges, our military success in the past year has certainly given us reason to be thankful. Soldiers are the heart and soul of our mission. They are both our purpose and our greatest asset, creating a larger family that includes DA civilians, coworkers and battle buddies.

As we pause to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember to honor those men and women who stand guard and defend freedom for us all over the world. This Thanksgiving holiday, I ask that each of you renew your commitment to safety in all that you do. The safety and security of this nation is accomplished by the hard work and sacrifices made by true professionals. Keep your mind on the safety basics: Wear seatbelts, don't drink

and drive, and don't speed. Use a designated driver if you do choose to drink. Also, do not try to multi-task while driving; do not text or talk on your cell phone while behind the wheel. I ask everyone to include composite risk management into your holiday plans to help ensure safety is priority one. Take a moment to review



"HOME OF US ARMY LOGISTICS"

the tools and resources available on the US Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center website, <https://safety.army.mil>. Remember your family and extended Army family during the Thanksgiving holiday. Be thankful, as I sincerely am, for your service and your commitment to both the Army and this great nation. — *John F. Wharton, Major General, USA, Commanding General, Rock Island Arsenal*

ASC Distribution Management Center Blood Drive Exceeds Expectations:

The Army Sustainment Command's Distribution Management Center hosted a blood drive Nov. 21 that surpassed expectations. The event, held in conjunction with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, sought 13 donors, including three first-time donors. ([More](#))



Pentagon Official Says DOD Needs More BRAC:

The Defense Department is again asking Congress to allow it to use a tool that would help alleviate draconian budget cuts possible



under sequestration: the base realignment and closure process. ([More](#))

2 Weeks Left For Army Employees to Switch Health Plans:

Army civilians have until Dec. 9 to decide whether or not to continue their Federal Employees Health Benefits plan or switch providers. Every year, the so-called open-season enrollment period is from the second Monday in November to the second Monday in December, according to Peg Schultz, director, Army Benefits Center - Civilian. It would be prudent for Army civilians to check their plans and compare them with other plans, Schultz advised. She said go to <https://www.abc.army.mil/>. ([More](#))



Bill Calls For 1 Percent Raise For Blue-Collar Feds:

A new bill introduced this week by Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.) would ensure blue-collar federal employees receive the same scheduled pay increase in January as General Schedule employees. White-



Upcoming Dates

Nov. 28: FMWR Thanksgiving Day Buffet, Arsenal Island Clubhouse

Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Day Holiday (*Federal Holiday*)

Dec. 5: FMWR Tree Lighting Ceremony, 11 a.m., in front of Bldg. 60.

Dec. 5: Arsenal Island Clubhouse Open House, 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 5: Right Arm Night, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 5: USO Holiday Reception, 3-5 p.m.

Dec. 5/6-13: Trees for Troops, Memorial Park

Dec. 7: RIA Installation Holiday Reception

Dec. 10-12: DA Photo Studio on RIA

Dec. 11: Tenant Senior NCO Meeting, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.

Dec. 12: JMC Holiday Reception, Quarters One

Dec. 14: Wreaths Across America, 11 a.m., Rock Island National Cemetery

Dec. 14: USO Discovery Kids, Christmas with the Animals, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1 p.m.

Dec. 14: Operations Family Time Out, 1-5 p.m. Davenport YMCA

Dec. 14: Army-Navy Game, Arsenal Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 17-18: AFTB Training: Level L Leadership Development

Dec. 18: EQCC, Bldg. 90, Room 25, 10 a.m.

Dec. 18: RIA Tenant Senior Leaders Luncheon, Arsenal Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Federal Holiday)

Jan. 7-9: DA Photo Studio on RIA

Jan. 8: Senior NCO Tenant Meeting, Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Remembrance Day (Federal Holiday)

Jan. 22: General Officer BOD Mtg., 1:30 p.m., Arsenal Island Clubhouse (T)

Jan. 23: Safety Occupational Health Advisory Committee, Bldg. 90, Room 25, 10 a.m.



collar GS employees are due to get a 1 percent pay raise in January, under a plan announced in August by President Barack Obama, who has authority to set GS pay levels. However, pay raises for wage-grade or hourly employees require separate legislation. With no action by Congress, pay for these employees would remain flat. ([More](#))

Hopes Fade as Budget Panel's Work

Plods Along: A House-Senate budget conference committee is finding its work on a compromise spending plan tough sledding, and the prospects for a long-term federal spending blueprint appear dead. During recent conversations with Defense News, senior House and Senate aides have acknowledged talks between the leaders of the bicameral conference committee have been plodding, and have so far yielded few tangible plans. ([More](#))



CBO Lays Out New Debt Ceiling

Deadlines: The clock continues to tick on a new budget agreement, and now the Congressional Budget Office is offering a snapshot of the new fiscal deadlines facing lawmakers. The current continuing resolution again suspended

the debt ceiling through Feb. 7. But if the suspension is not extended—or if lawmakers fail to agree to a higher debt limit before Feb. 8—the Treasury once again will not be able to borrow under standard procedures. So to avoid exceeding the debt ceiling, the Treasury would once again start using "extraordinary measures" to continue to borrow for a short time. ([More](#))

Bill Calls For 'Socially Responsible'

TSP Fund: A new bill would allow federal employees to contribute toward their retirement by investing only in companies deemed socially responsible. The "Federal Employees Responsible Investment Act," introduced this week by Rep. Jim Langevin (D-R.I.) and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), would require the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board to add a "Corporate Responsibility Index" to the existing five investment options available to federal employees. ([More](#))



Cuts to AFN, Closing Stars and Stripes on Pentagon Budget Table:

The Pentagon, under intense pressure to maintain American military might in an era of sequestration and falling budgets,

is considering the elimination of Stars and Stripes and the Pentagon Channel as well as programming cuts to American Forces Network. The Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation office, which answers to the secretary of Defense, has been tasked with reviewing spending on all such media products. ([More](#))

Five Steps to Picking a New Health

Plan: Once again, open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program is under way. That means active employees and retirees are all choosing the best health plan for them for 2014. Or are they? Open season can be overwhelming. Many people seem to think it's easier just to keep their current coverage and maybe put some money in a flexible spending account. It's true that all of the federal health plans are very good and you really can't make too much of a mistake regardless of your choice. But there are ways to save some serious money if you take the time to compare your options in FEHBP health plans, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Plans and FSA plans. ([More](#))



Save Money – Enroll in the Federal

FSA Program:

More than 300,000 Federal employees save about 30 percent on their health care and dependent care expenses with the Federal



Flexible Spending Account Program. By not paying taxes for what you and your family spends on health care and dependent care, you can save too. Your insurance only covers part of an expense, or doesn't cover it at all, you're stuck with the bill. Joining FSAFEDS is like getting a 30 percent discount on what you, your spouse, and your eligible children under age 26 spend on eligible expenses from prescriptions to glasses to sunblock and more. ([More](#))

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Mark your calendar and don't miss this opportunity to help the RIA community usher in the holiday season with our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Thursday, **Dec. 5**, 11 a.m., in front of Bldg. 60. There will be carolers, cookies, cocoa and of course a visit from jolly old Saint Nick complete with complimentary keepsake photos with Santa. After we light the Garrison tree there will be lots of door



prizes given away and there will be a special drawing, in addition to an opportunity to contribute to the Toys for Tots drive for those who bring a new, unwrapped gift. Call (309) 782-5890 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Trees For Troops Distribution:

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation in cooperation with FedEx is once again proud to bring the Trees for Troops program to Rock Island Arsenal. More than 150 free live Christmas trees will be delivered

Dec. 5 and made available for all active duty military (to include guard and reserve) and families every weekday, **Dec. 6-12**, (or while supplies last). The trees can be picked up at the Memorial Park Pavilion Friday - Thursday, **Dec. 6-12**, 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m. Please call



Wreaths Across America Ceremony:

The Rock Island National Cemetery will have a Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, **Dec. 14**, at 11 a.m., at the main cemetery flagpole.



The Wreaths Across America story began more than 20 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) and began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of our nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays. The wreath laying is now held annually on the second Saturday of December. This year, the organization has more than 800 participating locations in all 50 states and nearly 30 locations overseas. Wreaths Across America will lay between 355,000 to 401,000 remembrance wreaths on the headstones of those who served and sacrificed for our freedoms; all focused on the mission to Remember - Honor - and Teach. The public is invited to attend the Rock Island National Cemetery ceremony. POC is (309) 716-8620.

RIA Garrison DPTMS Installation Security & Intelligence Division

Closure: The Rock Island Arsenal Garrison DPTMS Installation Security & Intelligence Division will be closed all day on Friday, **Nov. 29**, and will resume normal customer service hours on Monday, Dec. 2. ([System Access/Authorization Request](#)) ([JPAS visit request](#)) ([Questions or Concerns](#))



Garrison Office Closures for Friday, Nov. 29: The following Garrison offices will be closed on Friday, **Nov. 29**, the day after the Thanksgiving federal holiday. • CAC/Military ID office will be closed; ASAP/EAP staff will be out, but will be available for emergencies via the RIA Emergency Dispatch number, (309) 782-6116. • Army Continuing Education Services office will also be closed; Military Personnel Division will be staffed.

End of Year Donations: For those wishing to donate annual leave to another Federal civilian employee in the Leave Transfer Program, please complete Statement of Leave Donor (RIA form 690-43) and submit with supervisor signature to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. To ensure a leave donation will be deducted from this calendar year, all donations must be received in the CPAC no later than **Dec. 20**. Reminder: In any leave year, an employee may donate no more than one-half of the amount of annual leave he or she would accrue during a leave year. For employees with 'use or lose' annual leave, you may donate no more than the number of hours remaining in the leave year as of the date of the transfer for which you are scheduled to work and

receive pay. POC: Janine Couppee may be reached at PECH-NCR-E, (309) 782-1278.

Blood Drive: The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive in the Caisson Room (First Floor, Bldg. 60), on **Friday, Dec. 13 & 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**



If you would like to donate at this blood drive, feel free to e-mail SHoegerl@mvrbc.com with the time you'd like to schedule, or call their Donor Center at (563) 359-5401, ext. 119. A **2nd shift** blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 210) beginning at **6:30 p.m. on TBD**. A **3rd shift** blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 210) beginning at **2:15 a.m. on Dec. 6**. To sign up for a blood drive held on either the 2nd or 3rd shift, donors should contact their shift supervisor. **Vista Technical Services Blood Drive** in Bldg. 350: This drive will be held Wednesday, **Dec. 11**, 12:30-4 p.m., in the MVRBC Donor Bus parked at Bldg. 350. To donate, please contact Paula Johnson at (309) 782-0562 or visit bloodcenterimpact.org. ([Blood Transfusion En Route to Trauma Center Keeps Navy Vet Alive](#))



Charlie Corpuscle Says, "Fall is definitely in the air. Did you know that when someone "falls," your blood donation helps to pick them up? In some cases, it is the reason patients are able to get up and carry on in life. On behalf of the patients whose lives you have "picked up," thank you."

The Army encourages its employees to volunteer as candidates for any of the variety of medical donor programs, including blood, bone marrow, and organ donor/transplant programs. For additional information [click here](#).

VIOS Schedule for December, January, February, March, April and May: Official DA Studio Photography (DA, Government passport and command photos) will be offered at Rock Island Arsenal **Dec. 10, 11, and 12; Jan. 7, 8, and 9; Feb. 11, 12 and 13; March 11, 12 and 13; April 22, 23 and 24; and May 6, 7, and 8** (Note changes to previous April dates). Appointments may be scheduled online by submitting a DA Form 3903 Work Request using the [Visual](#)



[Information Ordering Site](#) for the available times: 7 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. Click on "Frequently Asked Questions" on the VIOS site for more information. Walk-in appointments are not available. Photographs will be taken at the Photo Studio (Bldg. 56, basement, by elevator). Priority is: 1. Active duty Soldier's DA photos; 2. Official government passport photos; 3. Official command photos; 4. DA photos for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers (not on active duty). The 8"x10" head and shoulders - command photos will be printed and available digitally. Additional prints can be ordered in VIOS. To obtain an official government passport photo: 1. Schedule a passport photo appointment at the RIA VIOS website. 2. Go to transportation to obtain a printed DA Form 3903, Multi-Media/Visual Information Work Order, signed by the passport agent in Block 14. 3. Present that DA Form 3903 to the photographer before the passport photo is taken. You will receive two 2" x 2" passport photos. All scheduled dates can be found on the RIA VIOS website FAQ.

Quarters One Opens for Christmas

Tea: Quarters One on Arsenal Island opens for a Christmas Tea & Tour on Sunday, **Dec. 8**, at 3 p.m. hosted by the

Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation. Attendees of the Christmas Tea will enjoy savory and sweet delights, several types of teas, and a guided tour of the historic Quarters One mansion decorated for the holidays. Tickets are \$25 per person, and may be purchased online at www.davenporthouse.org or by calling Judy Tumbleson at (309) 786-5980. Only paid attendees of the Christmas Tea will be able to tour Quarters One.

Arsenal Island Employee Local

Discounts: *The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees –*

Double Tap

Firearms: Double Tap Firearms offers a 10 percent firearm discount and \$15 firearm transfer fee in Illinois to active duty and retired military personnel in the QCA ([📄](#)). **Bennigan's Rock Island:** Arsenal employees, service men, service women you are always welcome at Bennigan's in Rock Island, and to show you how much your welcome here, we offer a 25 percent discount off your meal, any day any time ([📄](#)).

Pepperjack's Restaurant & Lounge in Davenport: Rock Island Arsenal



employees receive 20 percent off their Pepperjack's entrée when they present their Arsenal identification card (one discount per ID) ([📄](#)). **New Life Chiropractic Clinic:** Arsenal Island employees, we're offering you a 20 percent discount on our services ([📄](#)). **Goebel Family Dentistry:** Active duty members of the military receive a 10 percent discount on all services. All other Arsenal civilian employees who are new patients can receive either the free exam and x-rays or a free whitening treatment on their first visit ([📄](#)). *This information is included for general workforce interest and does not constitute endorsement of the businesses or products.*

Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop:

The Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop Staff wishes you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Vintage purse collection just in plus a lot of military items. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday, **Dec. 21**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. POC: (309) 782-6977.

Custodial Concern with Rest Rooms:

When the custodians are in the rest room cleaning please use another facility. Do not push past the cart to use a stall. Request the same respect when an inspector is waiting at the rest room door for the opposite sex to vacate,



please don't ignore them and enter the rest room. It is unsafe for people to be in the rest rooms when they are being cleaned, there are slip hazards and chemicals present. This is a huge problem; if you could help it would be appreciated.

Illowa Council Boy Scouts of

America: The Illowa Council Boy Scouts of America from both Iowa and Illinois are now offering a free two-month trial membership through the end of 2013. Give one of our programs a try and see if it is right for your son or daughter. Program offered through the Illowa Council: • Cub Scouts (Boys 1st-5th Grades) • Boy Scouts (Boys 6th grade-18 yrs old) • Venturing (Coed young men and women ages 14-21) Each program has something unique to offer to the youth of the Quad Cities area. However, character building, leadership skills, and an emphasis on giving back to the community are all characteristics that make up the foundation that is Scouting. For more than 103 years, the movement of Scouting has shaped leaders across this great country. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the Scouting



community for free. If you are interested, please contact the following individuals: • Illinois Scouting - [Jeff Applegate](#) (563) 349-7413 ([Upcoming Illinois Events](#)) • Iowa Scouting - [Andy Green](#) (563) 349-3440 or [Ian Scott](#) (563) 349-8053 ([Upcoming Iowa Events](#))

Two Rivers YMCA Inquiry: The Two Rivers YMCA is conducting a membership and community needs study to gather input on opportunities for growth and facility expansion in Rock Island. Please click on the link below or paste it into your web browser and take a few minutes to complete a short survey. The survey should not take longer than 5-minutes. If individuals choose to take the survey, the survey should not be taken on duty time or using a government computer. Thank you in advance for your time. ([Survey](#))

Arsenal Traffic/Construction

No Arsenal Traffic/Construction related announcements this week.

Building/Space Closures

No Building/Space Closure related announcements this week.

Active Duty/Reserve Zone

New Requirements to Make Sergeant Go Live Jan. 1

The first tier of Structured Self Development, or SSD-1, becomes a hard-and-fast requirement for promotion to sergeant on Jan. 1, which means some 14,000 promotable specialists and corporals must have credit for the online course if they want to remain on the E-5 recommend list. The new mandate is one of several policies to be implemented in 2014 that will link the completion of Structured Self-Development and professional military education with NCO promotion eligibility in the Regular Army, National Guard and Army Reserve. ([More](#))

Administrative Leave Authorized For Soldiers Seeking Same-Sex

Marriages: As of a Nov. 7, Army directive, Soldiers seeking same-sex marriages are entitled, in some cases, to an amount of administrative leave in order to travel to a location where such marriages are legal. In the directive titled "Extending Benefits to Same-Sex Spouses of Soldiers," Secretary of the



Army John M. McHugh spelled out some of the policies regarding the administrative leave for Soldiers seeking same-sex marriages. The directive also says that marriage-related entitlements for same-sex couples are retroactive to June 26, 2013 -- the day of the Supreme Court ruling that changed the laws. ([More](#))

Jobs Program Connects Reserve, Guard Members to Employers: Two years ago, the civilian employment situation for members of the National Guard and reserve was bleak. The economy had taken a downturn, causing unemployment rates nationwide to rise, including rates for veterans. But particularly troubling to Ronald Young, executive director of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, was that unemployment among reserve component members hit a record high of 13 percent in 2011. ([More](#))

Pentagon Builds Forces In Pacific, Eyes China: The Pentagon is fortifying bases in the Pacific and looking to revive World War II-era air bases as part of an effort to survive a Chinese missile attack that could wipe out critical installations on Okinawa and elsewhere, military records, interviews and congressional testimony show. The

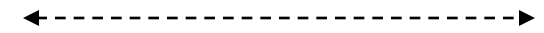
strategy indicates the evolution of the administration's shift toward Asia, which includes the creation of a growing base in northern Australia. Chinese missiles have been a preoccupation of Pentagon planners who worry they could be used as a threat to deny access to the region by U.S. ships, planes and troops. ([More](#))

Lawmakers Introduce Military Whistleblower Protection Act: A group of senators have introduced legislation to strengthen military whistleblower protection laws. The Military Whistleblower Protection Act—cosponsored by Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa)—would extend whistleblower protections to witnesses as well as victims. According to the cosponsors, the bill also would ensure that corrective relief is provided to victims of retaliation, and that those who retaliate for whistleblower activity are disciplined. ([More](#))

Survivor Outreach Services: The Survivor Outreach Services program is a "One Army" Program that serves as the long-term support portion of the overall Army casualty continuum of care. From very early on in the casualty process,

active Army, Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve support coordinators and financial counselors work together as an integrated team to provide dedicated and comprehensive support services to all surviving family members, regardless of service component, cause, or location of death. SOS honors their sacrifice and assures survivors that they remain part of the Army family for as long as they desire. ([More](#))

Illinois CPA Society Tax Filing Assistance to 2013 Deployed Personnel: Illinois residents that were (or are) in the military and deployed in 2013 may have their taxes filed for free by the Illinois CPA Society. This may be of value to persons not near Rock Island Arsenal, but call us for information or assistance. ([More](#))



Safety Spotlight



Army Safety Thanksgiving 2013

Message: This season of thanks is especially poignant after our Army's safest year on record. Due to your hard work and commitment to safety, more Soldiers are enjoying time with Family and friends at Thanksgiving tables around the world. As you celebrate the



holiday, we ask that you also reflect on the importance of this historic achievement. Each of you played a vital role in it, and working together, we will continue the tradition of professionalism and excellence. ([More](#))

Senior Pentagon Official Urges Holiday Safety Awareness:

A senior Pentagon official is urging military members to avoid the kinds of risky behavior that can spike during the holiday season. Army Lt. Gen. Michael S. Linnington, military deputy to the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, cautioned against historically fatal factors such as distracted driving, or driving while fatigued or under the influence. "The holidays are a special time for military members and their families to release, rejoice and recharge," Linnington said. "They serve here and around the world, making a difference, which is all the more reason their safety and well-being is so critical." ([More](#))

Turkey Fryer Safety: Hang On A Minute:

When it comes to frying up a feathered feast, there may be no better experts than bearded duckmen Si and Jase Robertson. As members of the Duck Commander family, they know how to be safe when frying a bird. That

is why they have teamed up with insurer State Farm® to reinforce the importance of turkey fryer and cooking safety this holiday season with a brand-new video titled Hang on a Minute with Jase and Si Robertson. ([More](#))

Equal Opportunity Focus



EEO Office Closure: The Garrison EEO Office will be closed on **Nov. 29**, the day after the Thanksgiving Federal Holiday and resume normal operating hours on **Dec. 2**. Those with emergencies can call (309) 738-8044.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)



Visit the MWR website at www.riamwr.com for information on all MWR programs. Also [click here](#) to become a fan on Facebook, or Twitter [@golf1897](#), and stay up to date on all the great MWR offerings here at the Arsenal.

November Auto Skills Newsletter:

Check out the [November edition of the Auto Skills newsletter](#) for some great tips on winter vehicle maintenance. If

the shutdown and/or furloughs caused you to miss out on the October oil change special, have no fear, we've extended the special through the end of November. For just \$20 you can get a standard, full service oil change (excludes diesel and full synthetic oils). Call (309) 782-8631 to schedule an appointment.

Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse:

Join us Thursday, **Nov. 28**, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse for a delicious all-you-care-to-eat Thanksgiving dinner buffet featuring all of your favorite holiday dishes. Leave the hassle of planning, shopping, cooking, and clean-up to us so you can spend more time with your family and friends this holiday. Cost is \$20.95/adult and \$10.95/child (10 & under). Please call (309) 793-1601 for more info and to make your reservations. ([Flyer](#))

Tree Lighting Ceremony:

Mark your calendar and don't miss this opportunity to help the RIA community usher in the holiday season with our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Thursday, **Dec. 5**, 11 a.m., in front of Bldg. 60.



There will be carolers, cookies, cocoa and of course a visit from jolly old Saint Nick complete with complimentary keepsake photos with Santa. After we light the Garrison tree there will be lots of door prizes given away and there will be a special drawing for those who bring a new, unwrapped gift for our Toys for Tots drive. Call (309) 782-5890 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Holiday Open House & Right Arm

Night: The holiday cheer from the Tree Lighting Ceremony continues at the Golf Clubhouse as we welcome you to come in and enjoy complimentary light hors d'œuvres, holiday music & decor and drink specials aplenty Thursday, **Dec. 5**, with the open house beginning at 2:30 p.m. Right Arm Night kicks off at 4:30 p.m. so finish up the workday by bringing your employees in for a drink to say thanks for all that they do for your organization. Open to the public and everyone is welcome so this will be a great event to meet and mingle with other folks from around the RIA and Quad Cities communities. Call (309) 782-6319 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Trivia Night at the Arsenal Club: Get up to seven of your smartest friends together Thursday, **Dec. 5**, at 6 p.m., and come wage a battle of wits against other

trivia enthusiasts. This fun, multi-media, family friendly trivia competition held in the Arsenal Club (Bldg. 60) features a wide range of topics and is open to the public so invite all your trivia junky friends, the more players we get the better the prizes become. Cost is \$5/player or \$30/table of 8. Call (309) 782-6319 for more info and to sign up in advance. ([Flyer](#))

Army Navy Game Viewing &

Celebration: Call up your service buddies and come cheer for your team as the Army Black Knights take on the Navy Midshipmen in the 114th annual grudge match between these two fierce rivals Saturday, **Dec. 14**. The doors to the Golf Clubhouse will open at 12:30 p.m. and kick-off is at 2 p.m. There is no cover charge, we'll be showing the game on multiple big screen T.V.'s and there will be free wings all thanks to our great sponsor, the Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, (AUSA). Call (309) 782-4372 for more info. ([Flyer](#))



←-----→
MWR Leisure Travel Office



Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Bldg. 60. The office is closed for lunch from 10:30–11 a.m., (309) 782-5890. ([email](#)) ([website](#))

Military Ticket Voucher Program:

Leisure Travel will not be ordering or making reservations through this program. Changes are being made in the way of ordering tickets and hotel reservations. Once changes are in place ordering will resume. For more information please contact the office (309) 782-5890.

Outdoor Rec. Size Up for Winter

Event: Come into Outdoor Recreation (Bldg 333, next to the PX) on Saturday, **Dec. 7**, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., and get sized up for all your winter sports gear to include skis, snowboards, boots, poles, ice skates, cross country skis and more. Outdoor Rec. will keep your sizes saved for future reservations so you'll never need to waste time getting fitted again, just make your reservation, grab your gear and get your recreation on. Call (309) 782-8630 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

MWR Christmas BUNCO: Holiday Bunco It's Back! Join us in Heritage Hall (Bldg 60) for Bunco, Christmas edition. Cost is \$5/player. There will be



door prizes and a special drawing for women's shelter donation participants. For a list of currently needed items for donations items please visit www.christiancareqc.org/docs/needlist.pdf. To RSVP call (309) 782-5890. ([Flyer](#))

Date: **Thursday, Dec. 12**

Time: **6-8 p.m.**

Chicago Loop/Water Tower Bus Trip:

Join MWR Saturday, **Dec. 14**, 6:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. (approx.), for an exciting day of shopping (or whatever you'd like to do) in downtown Chicago. Price is \$41/person and which covers transportation only. Bus departs from COL Davenport Pavilion area at 6:30 a.m., and departs from Chicago at 5 pm. Call (309) 782-5890 for more info and to sign up. ([Flyer](#))

Circa '21: A Christmas Story: The Musical:

Set in the 1940's in the fictional town of Homan, Indiana, the musical follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker and his quest for the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts - an official Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200 Shot Range Model Air Rifle. Seats on sale for \$45 (dinner & show) until **Nov. 30**.

Date: **Saturday, Dec. 14**

Time: **6 p.m.**

Adler Theatre Presents: Mamma Mia:

A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget. More than 45 million people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make Mamma Mia.

Reduced tickets on sale until **Nov. 15**.

\$65 each

Date: **Tuesday, Dec. 17**

A Fairy Tale Christmas: Circa 21 presents a children's musical A Fairy Tale Christmas. Cinderella, Snow White, and a host of other fairy tale characters are getting ready for the Crystal Christmas Ball. However, a new person, doesn't quite follow the rules. On sale while seating lasts until **Dec. 7**. Cost is \$10.50 per person.

Date: **Saturday, Dec. 21**

Time: **9:30 a.m.**

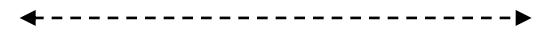
Adler Theatre: Green Day's

American Idiot: Direct from Broadway, the smash-hit musical American Idiot tells the story of three lifelong friends, forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia. Their quest for true meaning in a post-9/11 world leads them on the most exhilarating theatrical journey. On sale until **Dec. 6**. \$58 each.

Date: **Wednesday, Jan. 8**

Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX

Theatre: Leisure Travel is selling Platinum Supersaver Prepaid Admission Tickets to Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX theatre (formally 53rd cinemas and RAVE cinemas) These tickets have no restrictions or expiration date.



Child, Youth & School Services



Parent Central Services Office

Temporary Move: In order to complete necessary renovations to the Parent Central Services Office (Bldg. 110), the office will be temporarily located down the hall between **Nov. 25 and Dec. 16**. Please plan ahead and conduct any business that you possibly can before or after this period, e.g. pass renewals, new registrations, etc. We will still be able to serve you from the temporary office but it may just take a little longer so try to take care of urgent business early. Please call (309) 782-0791 for more info and to schedule appointments.

Summer Day Camp: With winter still approaching, it seems odd to be thinking of summer. However, if you are wanting your child to be eligible to participate in the Summer Day Camp Lottery, you



must have your child registered with Child Youth and School Services by COB on Friday, **Dec. 20**. If you have any questions, please call the School Age Center at (309) 782-5019.

Army Community Service (ACS)



ACS is located in Bldg. 110, 1st floor SE; Visit our [ACS website](#) or phone (309) 782-0829. Call ahead for special accommodations when attending ACS classes. [Find us on Facebook click here](#). 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline: (309) 229-8412



ACS Adopt A Family: ACS facilitates the Adopt A Family Program each year during the holidays to help our local military families in need. Concerned civilians willing to assist families donate a variety of items to meet those needs. If you would like more information regarding this wonderful holiday program, please contact (309) 782-3049 for more information.

Special Needs Informational Forum: Come join other families from the community with special needs family

members Tuesday, **Dec. 10**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the School Age Center (Bldg. 150) for a fun night of crafts, snacks, and new friends. Free onsite childcare with advance RSVP and registration with CYSS. Please call (309) 782-6515 or (309) 782-4736 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Operation: Family Timeout: Four hours of free childcare is available to military families and families of deployed civilian for children ages six weeks to 12 years old. Operation: Family timeout upcoming events will be: **Dec. 14**, at the Davenport YMCA. ([Flyer](#))

Personal Finances During a Transition: Personal Finances in a Transition for Separating and Retiring Military Personnel. Army Community Service is supporting the Arsenal's Army Career and Alumni Program by providing web based lessons, work sheets and MS Excel spreadsheets for use by our Military Personnel and Families as they transition out of the service. The Personal Finances in a Transition section may be found towards the bottom of the [ACS Financial Readiness web page](#). POC is [Jon Cook](#), (309) 782-1499.

Employee Assistance Program



For free, confidential counseling assistance or for information on services that are available, call (309) 782-4357. Normal business hours are from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. For additional information on the Employee Assistance Program see [our website](#) or visit us on [Facebook](#). The new location for the EAP/ASAP is Bldg. 56, 1st floor, East.

Keep Your Mental Health in Check During the Holidays – December 2013: Another year will soon be coming to a close, but not without the big rush of the holiday season. Relatives to visit, meals to prepare, presents to buy ... whether it is the most joyous time of year is up for debate but it might certainly be the busiest. The holiday season is a happy time for many; however, the stress of the season may exacerbate existing problems. Strained family relationships may be harder to tolerate, financial pressures more troubling, an already hectic schedule pushed to the brink. Depression and other mental health concerns can also be aggravated during the holidays. If you were feeling down or anxious before the holiday season, now you might feel even



more worried or isolated. Some good times with friends and family may be all you need to feel better, but if you find you haven't felt like yourself for more than a week or two, something more serious may be going on. To help you identify if your holiday stress or blues may be a sign of an underlying mental health condition the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program offers free, confidential services with master's-level counselors. The EAP is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor. Call (309) 782-4357 to schedule an appointment. Make sure you give yourself a gift this holiday season. If you have been feeling down or stressed lately please contact the EAP today.

Grief Support Group: The Employee Assistance Program is sponsoring a support group for individuals who are mourning the death of a loved one. The group meets on Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m., in Bldg. 56, 1st floor, Room 122. For more information contact Rita Baugh, EAP counselor, at (309) 782-2552.

Stress Management: Do you want to learn effective strategies to reduce stress? Sign up for a Stress Management Class. **Dec. 17, Jan. 28, Feb. 25,** Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m., Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, Room 122, Call (309) 782-

4357 to reserve your spot. Sponsored by: Employee Assistance Program.

Understanding PTSD: Classes are being offered for those who wish to learn more about the nature and treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder **Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11,** Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m., Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, Room 122. Call (309) 782-4357 to reserve your spot. Presented by the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program.

PTSD Support Groups: Are you or a loved one experiencing symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder? The Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic and Employee Assistance Program are sponsoring support groups to assist you through this difficult challenge. Contact Rita Baugh, EAP counselor, at (309) 782-2552 for more details.

Smoking Cessation Group: The Great American Smoke-Out is Thursday, November 21st. What better time to kick the habit. The Employee Assistance Program offers an educational support group for people who would like to quit smoking. The group meets each Wednesday, 3-4 p.m., at the EAP office in Bldg. 56, 1st floor.

←-----→

Education/Training Review

The Rock Island Army Education Center is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor, west end of the building. Office hours: **7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday.** Phone: (309) 782-2065 Fax: (309) 782-7901. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Scheduled Closure: Western Illinois University will be closed the following Tuesdays for Winter Break – **Dec. 24** and **31**. The National Testing Center will also be closed on those dates.

ACES Newsletter Hits the Streets: The RIA Army Education Center's Army Continuing Education System November edition of its newsletter is out on the streets. [The quarterly publication is available for viewing off of the AEC's website.](#)

Get Ready, Get Set, Go-Go-Go to School! Seeking or Pursuing a College Degree? Have Questions? Meet with school representatives and learn about educational opportunities in the Quad Cities, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, Room 121. • Ashford University: (563) 508-0927, **Jan. 24;** • Black Hawk



College: (309) 796-5191, **Jan. 9**; • Eastern Iowa Community College: (563) 441-4060, **Dec. 5**; • Kaplan University: (563) 441-2485, Nov. 14; • Saint Ambrose University: (563) 333-6170, **Jan. 16**; • Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences: (309) 779-7812, **Nov. 21**. Military personnel, family members, and DoD civilians are welcome to stop by. No appointments are necessary. Education Center POC: Guidance Counselor, [Lorrie Blumberg](#), (309) 782-6343.

NDIA Academic Year 2014-15

Scholarship: Applications for the Iowa Illinois Chapter NDIA Academic Year 2014-15 scholarship are now being accepted. The scholarship application may be found at www.ndia-ia-il.org. Applications must be postmarked by **March 24**. Call (563) 650-3252 for further information.

Sgt. Paul Fisher Academic Year 2014-15

Scholarship Applications for Academic Year 2014-15 Sgt. Paul Fisher Scholarship are now being accepted. High school senior sons and daughters of active duty, reserve, and retired military members in Iowa and northwestern Illinois are eligible to apply. Applications are available on the chapter's web site, www.ndia-ia-il.org.

Applications must be postmarked by **March 24**. Call (563) 650-3252 for any additional information.

Commissary / Exchange

The [Rock Island Commissary](#) and the [Exchange](#) are for active duty military and retirees only. There are exceptions for select items (mainly consumable) at the Exchange that can be purchased by Arsenal Island employees with ID. The Commissary makes fresh fruit baskets daily for you! Shopping for someone who has everything? Problem solved. They are hungry for fresh fruit. Just buy them a fruit basket and relax. Ask our friendly staff to make you one or order one in advance. Check out local specials and get POC information [HERE](#). For information on this and other Commissaries, visit: www.commissaries.com ([Facebook](#))

DoD Seeks Plan to Shut All U.S.

Commissaries: Defense officials have reportedly asked the Defense Commissary Agency to develop a plan to close all U.S. commissaries — about three-fourths of its stores, according to a resale community source familiar with

details of a meeting with representatives of the Joint Staff and Pentagon comptroller's office. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the meeting was held within the last few weeks and was part of preparations for the fiscal 2015 DoD budget request that is due out on February. That DeCA has been asked to prepare such a draft plan does not mean commissaries would close anytime soon. Even if such a plan was included in the defense budget request for fiscal 2015 — almost a year away — it would have to be approved by Congress, where many lawmakers would oppose it. ([More](#))

Your Commissary Offers More Savings for the Holidays

Military families facing the annual ritual of planning their holiday menus need look no farther than their commissary for quality and savings. "Your commissary has the most affordable, high-quality, name-brand ingredients for the perfect holiday meal," said Randy Chandler, the Defense Commissary Agency's sales director. "Whether the menu is a traditional roast turkey and potatoes, or a vegetarian meal with organic fruits and vegetables, you can find everything you need at your commissary to prepare a memorable holiday smorgasbord. "Our industry partners are offering greater



savings than ever before through high-value coupon booklets," he added. "Some promotions include a free turkey opportunity and there's a promotion benefitting wounded warriors." Throughout November, the commissary's industry partners - vendors, suppliers and brokers - are collaborating with stores to offer discounts beyond everyday savings. Overseas stores may have substitute events for certain promotional programs.

Arsenal Archive

Information for the *Arsenal Archive* is made available by the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The Museum is open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, federal holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. Admission is free. ([website](#))

Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society – December 2013: The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., at Quarters One. The menu will be Tossed Salad with Bread Sticks, Filet of Salmon with Cucumber Tomato, Coleslaw, Rice Pilaf, Green Bean Almandine, Rolls and Dessert

prepared by the Golf Club Chef, all for \$14, including tax and tip. This event is open to both members and non-members. Interested parties may choose to attend only the Program Portion of the meeting at 7 p.m. at no cost. Guest speaker will be Historical Society Board Member/ Vice President, Jolene Keeney, who will talk about the first 100 years of history of Moline's beautiful city hall building, 1913-2013. For reservations call Monica (563) 650-4349 or Linda (563) 355-6165 or email chiicaliinda@aol.com. Reservations are due by noon on Monday, Dec. 2. Cancellations must be made by the reservation deadline or you will be liable for cost incurred and billed accordingly. If further clarification is required on this notice, please call Kris Leinicke at (309) 782-3518.

This Week in Rock Island Arsenal History – Nov. 25-Dec. 1: Paracrates, air delivery containers, were manufactured at the RIA during WWII. Preliminary studies for the development of these paracrates were completed on Dec. 1, 1942. On that date a set was shipped to Fort Bragg for tests. On Dec. 1, 1970, the U.S. Army Weapons Command's Keith L. Ware Simulation and Experimental Firing Center was officially opened by Lt. Gen.

Woodrow Vaughn, Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Healthbeat

Remain Healthy By Addressing Risk Factors For Diabetes: November is Diabetes Awareness Month and doctors throughout Europe Regional Medical Command are encouraging Servicemembers, Families and Civilians to be aware of how health choices can lead to this debilitating illness. ([More](#))

Notes for Veterans

VA Marks the 10-Year Anniversary of My HealtheVet: In recognition of the 10th anniversary of its award-winning Personal Health Record, My HealtheVet (www.myhealth.va.gov), the Department of Veterans Affairs is urging all Veterans and Servicemembers to join the millions already accessing VA health care information and services online. VA is marking this milestone by spreading the word about the benefits of My HealtheVet Personal Health Record, such as VA prescription refill, VA notes,



VA Blue Button and secure messaging with VA health care providers. ([More](#))

VA Warns of New 'Marketing Scam':

The Veterans Affairs Department is warning veterans about a "marketing scam" that reportedly targets callers trying to reach two of VA's national call centers. VA officials have notified law enforcement authorities to address the situation, according to a fraud alert posted on the department's Facebook page late Thursday. The marketing company has established two toll-free numbers that differ by one digit from the VA National Call Center and the VA GI Bill Call Center. ([More](#))

Carpooling Announcements

Submit carpooling announcements via the [Island Insight submission page](#). Please use that page to contact Garrison Public Affairs to take your announcement off once you have found a ride.

Carpool:

- **Ride:** Looking for a ride and pay for gas. Location – Sherwood Forest Apartment, Davenport. Call thru

Illinois relay at (800) 526-0857 to contact me at (309) 782-1078 (TTY). ([Email](#))

- **Carpool:** Carpool from Rio, Ill., looking for people to carpool with along 150. Please call (309) 782-5472.
- **Carpool:** New hire with flexible hours seeking to pay for ride from Moline 9th & 53rd, (Franklin School area) (309) 757-5755.

Around the Q.C.



Nov. 22-Dec. 1: [Quad City Arts Festival of Trees](#) (RiverCenter, Davenport)

Nov. 28: [Scott County Family Y Turkey Trot](#) (Downtown YMCA, Davenport)

Dec. 1: [19th Century Christmas](#) (Butterworth Center, Moline)

Dec. 6-7: [Christmas in the Village](#) (Village of East Davenport)

Dec 7: [Ugly Sweater & Tie Run/Walk](#) (Downtown Davenport)

Dec. 14: [USO Discovery Kids, "Winter Holiday Celebration w/ the Animals,"](#) Naibi Zoo

Dec. 14: [Jingle Bell Run/Walk 5K for Arthritis](#) (South Park Mall, Moline)

June 21: [Inaugural Micro Brew Mile & 6k Road Race](#) (Moline)

Island Insight



Col. Elmer Speights, Jr., Garrison Commander; Eric Cramer, Public Affairs Officer; Mark Kane, Editor

The Army publication, Island Insight, is an unofficial publication authorized under [AR 360-1](#) to provide information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of, about, and of interest to the Rock Island Arsenal community. It is published weekly using word processing software and Adobe PhotoShop using Portable Document Format reproduction for online distribution with the use of federal funds under provisions of [AR 360-1](#) by the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office. Contents of Island Insight are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Garrison or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of Island Insight is the responsibility of the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office. [Submission of announcements, articles, photos, letters, and graphic art of interest to the general readership is encouraged.](#) All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. Postal address: Garrison Manager, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, ATTN: IMRI-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. For [submission of announcements to the Island Insight](#); usarmy.ria.imcom-central.mbx.usag-ria-pa@mail.mil; Phone: (309) 782-1121. The Island Insight is [available on-line](#).

